

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on May 6, 2005, claim 54 was rejected under the first and second paragraphs of § 112; claims 11, 18, 20 and 94-97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cooke; claims 31, 35, 50-53, 55, 61, 62, 64 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dietle; claim 85 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dietle in view of either Lawrence or Spencer; claims 67, 68, 70-74, 82-84 and 90-93 were allowed; and claims 37-40, 47, 56, 65, 86-89 and 98 were objected to being dependent upon rejected base claims but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

For purposes of expediting prosecution, claim 54 has been cancelled, thereby removing the § 112 rejections of this claim. Additionally, the limitations of claims 38, 56, 65, 86 and 98 have been incorporated into independent claims 31, 50, 61, 85 and 94, respectively. For at least the reason that the Examiner indicated that claims 38, 56, 65, 86 and 98 were allowable if rewritten in independent form, allowance of claims 31, 35, 37, 39, 40, 47, 50-53, 55, 61, 62, 64, 66, 85, 87-89 and 94-97 is requested. In view of these amendments, claims 38, 56, 65, 86 and 98 have been cancelled.

Regarding the remaining § 102(b) rejections of claims 11 and 18, the limitations of claim 20 (now cancelled) have been incorporated into independent claim 11. These limitations include puncturing the casing to measure a characteristic in a region of the well outside of the casing. Contrary to amended claim 11 (which contains the limitations of original claim 20), Cooke fails to teach or suggest puncturing a casing to measure a characteristic outside of the casing. Therefore, for at least this reason, Cooke fails to anticipate amended independent claim 11. Thus, allowance of claims 11 and 18 is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the §§ 102, 103 and 112 rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (SHL.0098US).

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Respectfully submitted,

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